

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE
ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 3, 2004

Appln. No. 09/998,878

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Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled).

2 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim ~~± 31~~, wherein said second filamentary members comprises a material of a composition characterized by a higher tensile strength relatively to material comprising said first filamentary members.

3 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim 2, wherein said material comprising said second filamentary member is selected from the group consisting of ~~nitinol~~ nickel-titanium alloy, stainless steel and titanium.

4 (original). A graft according to Claim 3, wherein said material comprising said first filamentary members is selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene and nylon.

5 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim ~~± 31~~, wherein said second filamentary members comprises a plurality of plied filaments.

6 (original). A graft according to Claim 5, wherein each filament of said plurality of plied filaments has substantially the same denier and comprises substantially the same material as said first filamentary members comprising said graft.

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7 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim ~~± 31~~, wherein said second filamentary members ~~has~~ have a relatively greater denier than said first filamentary members.

8 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim ~~± 31~~, wherein said graft comprises an elongated tube.

9 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim 8, wherein said second filamentary members ~~is~~ are positioned circumferentially around said tube adjacent to one end thereof.

Claim 10 (canceled).

11 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim ~~10~~ 31, wherein said second ~~and third~~ filamentary members have a color different from said first filamentary members comprising said graft, said second ~~and third~~ filamentary members; thereby visually identifying said attachment region therebetween.

12 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim 11, wherein said first, ~~and~~ second ~~and third~~ filamentary members are interlaced by weaving.

13 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim ~~10~~ 8, further comprising a stent extending circumferentially around said tube and attached thereto at said one end thereby supporting said tube radially outwardly, said stent engaging said second ~~and third~~ filamentary members.

14 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim 13, wherein said second ~~and third~~ filamentary members have a relatively greater denier than said first filamentary members, said stent being supported away from said first filamentary members by said second ~~and third~~ filamentary members, said

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second ~~third~~ filamentary members providing a sacrificial surface protecting said first filamentary members from abrasion by said stent.

15 (currently amended). A graft according to Claim 14, further comprising a plurality of longitudinal filamentary members oriented substantially lengthwise along said tube and positioned circumferentially there around, said longitudinal filamentary members being interlaced with and having a relatively greater denier than said first filamentary members and intersecting said second ~~and third~~ filamentary members at said one end thereby further supporting said stent away from said first filamentary members.

16 (currently amended). ~~In a~~ A graft for repair of living animal tissue, said graft comprising a plurality of interlaced first filamentary members, a plurality of according to Claim 31, wherein said second filamentary members are interlaced with said first filamentary members and positioned in an attachment region on said graft attachable to said living animal tissue, said second filamentary members for inhibiting leaks upon attachment of said graft to said living animal tissue.

17 (original). A graft according to Claim 16, wherein said graft comprises an elongated tube, said second filamentary members being positioned circumferentially around said tube at one end thereof.

Claims 18-30 (canceled).

31 (new). A graft for repair of living animal tissue, said graft comprising:

a substrate having an edge and formed from a plurality of interlaced first filamentary members; and

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a reinforced attachment region confined to a position on said substrate adjacent to said edge, said reinforced attachment region being defined by a pair of second filamentary members interlaced with said first filamentary members, said second filamentary members being positioned in spaced relation adjacent to one another and having a higher tensile strength than said first filamentary members, said attachment region for attachment of said substrate to said living animal tissue.